

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6668

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GGENEVA ATTN USDEL UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR PORG ID

SUBJECT; HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDONESIA

REF: A. JAKARTA A-27

B. STATE 12320

C. STATE 17499

D. STATE 14917

E. STATE 34811

1. AIRGRAM ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDONESIA (REF A)
REQUESTED REF B POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT AND USMISSION
GENEVA FEB 20. SUMMARY OF AIRGRAM FOLLOWS.

2. HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN INDONESIA REVOLVE AROUND
TWO GROUPS OF DETAINEES WHO ARE BEING HELD AS RESULT
OF SEPARATE CRISES DURING PST DECADE. FIRST AND MOST
SERIOUS OF THESE TWO CRISES WAS DISATROUS COMMUNIST
PARTY (PKI)-SUPPORTED COUP ATTEMPT OF SEPTEMBER 30, 1965
(KNOW AS G30S/PKI) AND ITS BLOODY AFTERMATH IN WHICH
OVER 100,000 PEOPLE ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN KILLED.
APPROXIMATELY 540,000 PKI SUSPECTS (BY OFFICIAL ESTIMATE)
WERE ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH 1965 EVENTS, AND ROUGHLY
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35,000 REMAIN IN DETENTIION. SECOND CRISIS WAS LARGE-

SCALE RIOTING WHICH STRUCK JAKARTA ON JANUARY 15-17, 1974, INTERRUPTING SIX YEARS OF STABILITY. OF 800 OR SO ARRESTED AFTER RIOTS, APPROXIMATELY 35 REMAIN IN DETENTION ON SUSPICION OF SUBVERSION. APART FROM THESE TWO SEPARATE GROUPS OF DETENTIONS, WHICH RESULTED FROM SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, RECORD OF GOI IN SUPPORTING RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS IS REASONABLE, CONSIDERING NATURE OF INDONESIA'S AUTHORITARIAN SOCIETY AND ITS UNDERDEVELOPMENT.

3. DETENTIONS OF BOTH G30S/PKI AND JANUARY 15 SUSPECTS ARE BASED ON BELIEF OF GOI LEADERSHIP THAT IF REVOLUTIONARY OR SUBVERSIVE FORCES (ESPECIALLY COMMUNIST PARTY AND AFFILIATES WHICH CLAIMED RESPECTIVELY APPROXIMATELY TWO AND TWELVE MILLION MEMBERS BEFORE 1965) ARE ALLOWED TO REGROUP, INDONESIA WILL AGAIN BE PLUNGED INTO VIOLENCE AND DISORDER WHICH CHARACTERIZED SUKARNO ERA AND LED TO CATASTROPHIC EVENTS OF 1965-66. THESE SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS ARE CONSISTENT WITH TRADITIONAL INDONESIAN ATTITUDES TOWARD POWER, AUTHORITY AND ORDER. GOI THEREFORE DOES NOT REGARD THESE DETENTIONS AS "POLITICAL" WITHIN THE MEANING OF SECTION 32 OF 1973 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT, SINCE THEY ARE BASED ON ITS PERCEPTION OF INTERNAL SECURITY. MOREOVER, DETENTIONS -- BOTH STEMMING FROM WHAT INDONESIAN LEADERSHIP REGARDS AS EXTRAORDINARY HISTORICAL AND INTERNAL SECURITY FACTORS -- WOULD NOT SEEM TO REPRESENT A "CONSISTENT PATTERN OF GROSS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS" WITHIN MEANING OF SECTION 46 OF THE 1974 FAA.

4. BECAUSE GOI'S DETENTION POLICIES STEM FROM LEADERSHIP'S CONCERN WITH INTERNAL SECURITY, INFLUENCE WHICH U.S. OR ANY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT CAN HAVE ON THESE POLICIES IS SEVERELY LIMITED. PREVIOUS EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AND SUCH GROUPS AS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAVE HAD LITTLE EFFECT ON THESE POLICIES. MOREOVER, IN SOME CASES, GOI HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT OFFICIAL APPROACHES ARE UNWELCOME AND HARMFUL TO GOOD RELATIONS. ANY EFFORT TO USE AID AS LEVER TO ALTER GOI'S DETAINEE POLICIES WOULD PROBABLY PROVOKE AN EVEN STRONGER ADVERSE REACTION. U.S. WILL THEREFORE FACE, IN ANY EFFORT TO INFLUENCE GOI'S DETENTION POLICIES, STRONG

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INDONESIAN FEELING THAT THIS IS INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL PROBLEM. IN CONSIDERING ANY NEW U.S. INITIATIVES IN THIS AREA, WE WOULD THEREFORE NEED TO WEIGH CAREFULLY IMPORTANCE OF OUR BROADER RELATIONS WITH INDONESIA AGAINST ADVERSE INDONESIAN REACTION THAT SUCH EFFORTS WOULD MOST LIKELY PROVOKE,

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